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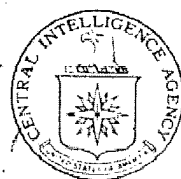
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Declassification review by NIMA/DOD

PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION REPORT

EVALUATION OF  
REPORTED MILITARY ACTIVITY,  
CHANTREA AREA, CAMBODIA

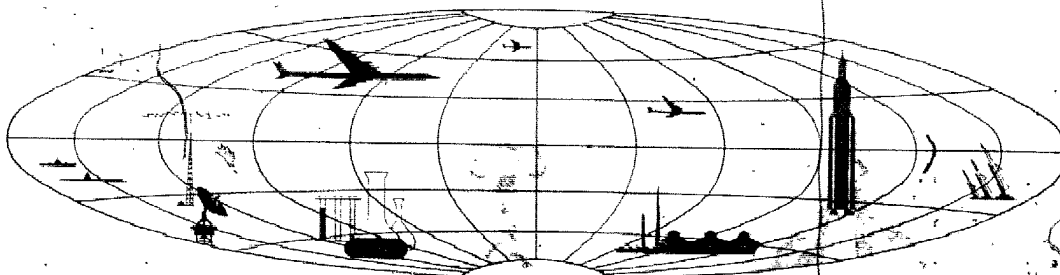


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GROUP 1  
Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and declassification

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PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION REPORT

**EVALUATION OF  
REPORTED MILITARY ACTIVITY,  
CHANTREA AREA, CAMBODIA**

NPIC/R-1184/64

April 1964

NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION CENTER

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## SUMMARY

This report, prepared at the request of the Department of State, represents an NPIC evaluation of a reported military area in Cambodia, adjacent to the South Vietnam border and in the vicinity of UTM coordinates XS290947 1/. A location map is provided in Figure 1. The area, located 5 nm SSE of Chantrea, Cambodia (10-52N 106-04E), is generally flat, marshy land, and is predominantly agricultural.

All coordinates and the border delineation have been derived from AMS Series L509, sheet NC 48-7, scale: 1:250,000.

The 13th Reconnaissance Technical Squadron (RTS) report referenced above refers to nine possible installations. Each of these is commented on in the body of this report.

## COMPARATIVE EVALUATION

1. Area 1 (See Figure 2), reported as a probable command post/headquarters 1/, is a major local farming development as evidenced by a pattern of continued cultivation during the period of photographic coverage [REDACTED]

The referenced report lists one possible bunker located in the center of the area, 3 revetted storage buildings, 2 possible storage areas containing a total of 3 buildings and 2 support buildings, a barrier of approximately 35 foxholes, approximately 15 AW emplacements, a sawtooth trench and numerous dispersed foxholes.

A comparison of this area with [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] reveals the following: The reported bunker contained a dwelling which has been removed on photography of [REDACTED]

The reported revetted storage buildings appear to be farm buildings and outbuildings. The purpose of the approximately 35 irregularly spaced and aligned excavations, reported as a barrier of 35 foxholes, has not been determined; however, they may be used in planting trees for a windbreak. Trees planted in these holes would form a barrier against the prevailing summer monsoon winds, a windbreak pattern common in the delta area. A search of the surrounding

area shows that those areas of established local farming development have this windbreak pattern. Similar orderly rows of holes can be observed in several of the areas depicted in the referenced report. The sawtooth trench appears to be partially obscured by vegetation. The vegetation and the absence of track activity in the vicinity indicate that the trench is probably little used.

2. Area 2 (See Figure 3) was reported as a possible munitions storage area containing 10 dispersed storage bunkers interconnected by a canal system. A central probable control point comprises 2 main buildings, several support buildings, 14 AW emplacements, 2 sawtooth trenches (one forming a triangle) and numerous scattered foxholes.

A comparison of this area with [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] reveals the following: The area is a probable former agricultural area containing 10 raised building foundations (buildings have been removed) interconnected by raised paths and 4 buildings which were formerly associated with the agricultural activity in this area. The sawtooth trenches are almost obliterated by vegetation on photography of [REDACTED] and appear to be no longer used.

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NPIC/R-1184/64

The entire area is typical of the agricultural development observed throughout this marshy area.

3. Area 3 (See Figure 4) reported as a possible munitions storage area is an abandoned agricultural area almost totally obscured by vegetation.

4. Area 4 was reported as an unidentified storage area containing 5 possible storage buildings interconnected by canals, 2 distinct lines of foxholes, and numerous scattered foxholes and AW emplacements. The report also suggests this installation may house additional headquarters and command facilities.

A comparison of this area with

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reveals the following: The two distinct lines of foxholes appear to be small circular cleared areas with a shrub-like object projecting up from the center. The alignment, spacing and orientation resemble that of a windbreak. The building pattern, raised foundations and paths, and cultivation pattern are similar to those observed in the other agricultural areas. The numerous scattered holes generally observed in the area appear similar to the scattered holes observed throughout other agricultural areas. Absence of

track activity in the vicinity indicates that these holes are probably not used.

5. Area 5 (See Figure 5) was reported as a probable training area containing a simulated outpost and hamlet, numerous scattered foxholes and several AW emplacements.

A comparison of this area with

reveals the following: On

ground scarring was observed. On buildings were observed erected on the scarred areas and connected by paths similar to those observed in the other areas.

Also observed adjacent to Area 5 but not included in the annotated area on the 13th RTS report is the outline of a triangular strongpoint and possibly associated quarters area. Lack of track activity indicates the area is probably abandoned. No evidence of training activity was noted.

6. Areas 6, 7, 8 and 9 (See Figure 6) were reported as possible storage areas and unidentified installations. A comparison of these areas with

reveals the typical, active agricultural pattern found throughout this low section of the country.

#### CONCLUSIONS

The following conclusions have been derived from an examination of generally poor quality photography (with the exception of) currently available at NPIC:

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- a. The area is primarily agricultural and is typical of other agricultural areas established throughout this lowland section.
- b. Trenching and possible weapons emplacements indicate former military

- c. activity in the area; however, growth of vegetation and lack of track activity indicate that the trenches and possible emplacements are currently in disuse.
- c. The area may be used by para-military or military forces such as the Viet Cong, but such military uses of this area cannot be confirmed from an examination of photography currently available at the NPIC.

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FIGURE 2. FARMING, TRENCHING

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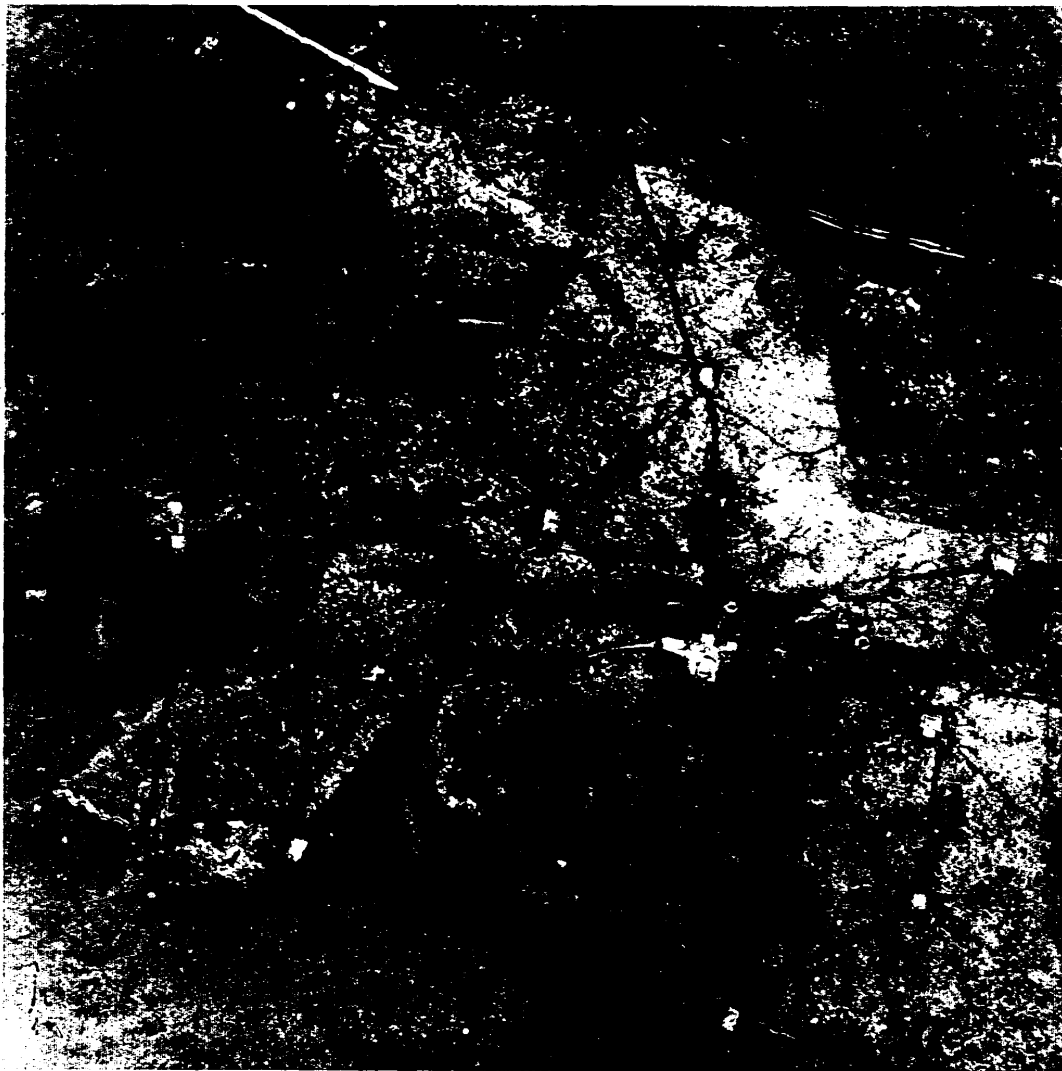


FIGURE 3. PARTIALLY RAZED AGRICULTURAL AREA.

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- 4 -

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FIGURE 4. ABANDONED AGRICULTURAL AREA.

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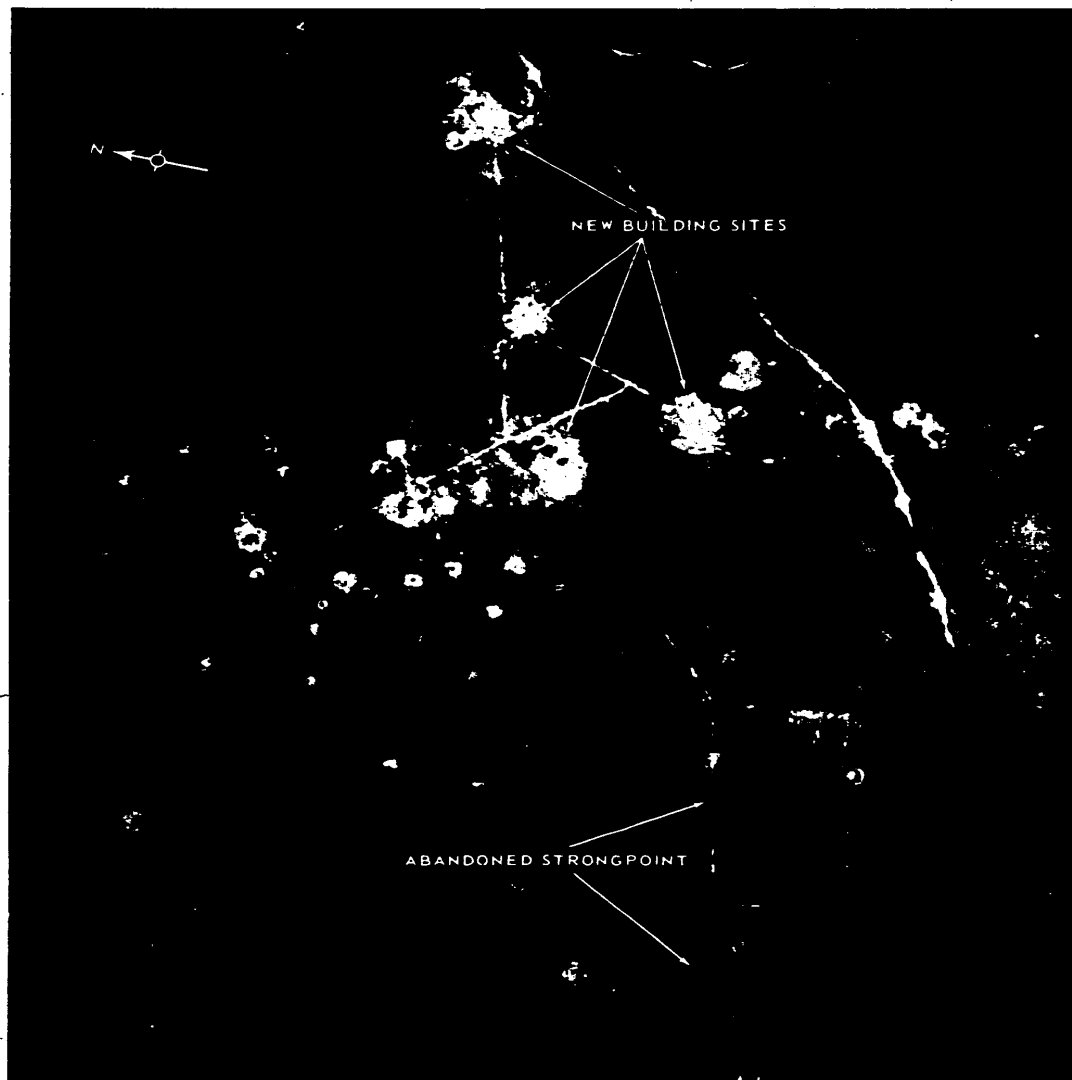


FIGURE 5. ABANDONED STRONGPOINT AND RURAL DWELLINGS UNDER CONSTRUCTION.

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FIGURE 6. TYPICAL ACTIVE AGRICULTURAL AREA.

NPIC H-0004 (4/64)

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NPIC/R-1184/64

REFERENCES

PHOTOGRAPHY

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MAPS

AMS Series L509, sheet NC 48-7, scale: 1:250,000 (UNCLASSIFIED)

AMS Series L605, sheets 220E, 220W, 229E, 229W, edition 6-SG1F, scale: 1:100,000 (UNCLASSIFIED)

DOCUMENTS

1. 13th Reconnaissance Technical Squadron, APO 143, San Francisco, California, *Detailed Photo Interpretation Report*, 4 Mar 64 (CONFIDENTIAL)

REQUIREMENT

STATE-64

NPIC PROJECT

N-493/64

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